

GEARHOUSE  
(Calumet Electric Shop)  
Mine Street across from Calumet High School  
Calumet  
Houghton County  
Michigan

HABS MI-435  
*MI-435*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### GEARHOUSE (Calumet Electric Shop)

HABS No. MI-435

Location: The Gearhouse is located off of Mine Street, directly across from the Calumet High School, in Calumet, Houghton County, Michigan.

Present Owner: The chain of title information is as follows:

Twp 56N Range 33W Section 14

I. E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  & W  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$   
Patent

State of Michigan to  
St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal Co.  
May 25, 1855, rec. June 6, 1866  
Volume 17, p. 2.

II. E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  & W  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SW  $\frac{1}{4}$   
Warranty Deed  
St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal Co. to  
St. Mary's Canal Mineral Land Co.  
June 8, 1860, rec. June 23, 1862  
Volume 5, p. 316.

III. E  $\frac{1}{2}$  of SE  $\frac{1}{4}$   
Warranty Deed  
St. Mary's Canal Mineral Land Co. to  
Calumet Mining Company  
December 12, 1865, rec. June 16, 1866  
Volume 8, p. 311.

IV. Merger of Calumet Mining Company with Hecla Mining Company to form the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company  
March 1871  
Red Metal, p. 71.

V. Formation of the Calumet & Hecla Consolidated Copper Company  
September 10, 1923  
Red Metal, p. 140.

VI. Merger between Calumet & Hecla and Universal Oil Products

April 25, 1968.

Present Occupant: Presumed vacant.

Notes: A mine fire in 1888 destroyed the man engine and pump shafts; at this time, the Gearhouse contained the man and pumping engine equipment. After the fire, the Gearhouse was rebuilt by Calumet and Hecla Mining Company Construction Department under the plans or supervision of Ed Leavitt. In 1892, the Gearhouse became home to the company's electric light and power plant. Two years later, the system was upgraded with the installation of two compound Westinghouse Engines. By 1907, however, the "electric plant of the old Gearhouse [was] dismantled, all the plumbing and lighting at the Mine being now done by electric power supplied to the Mine sub-station by the Power Plant at Lake Linden."<sup>1</sup> The building itself measures 71' x 77'6". Rising up from this footprint are walls made of hammer dressed broken ashlar of local gray poor rock and Lake Superior sandstone rubble. The steeply pitched hip roof is covered by reddish-brown scalloped asphalt.<sup>2</sup>

Sources: Charles K. Hyde and Diane B. Abbot, The Upper Peninsula of Michigan: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington: Historic American Engineering Record, 1978, cited in "Calumet and Hecla Industrial District," Nomination form 1974, 1977, National Register for Historic Places, National Park Service.

"Coppertown USA." Barton-Aschman Associates, Inc., for the UOP Realty Development Company, 1972.

Historians: The summer historians were Kevin Harrington and Wendy Nicholas, who worked for the Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record on the Calumet area survey in 1975.

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<sup>1</sup> Kevin Harrington and Wendy Nicholas, notes, 1975, including excerpt from the "Summary of the Operations of the Calumet & Hecla Mining Company."

<sup>2</sup> Kevin Harrington and Wendy Nicholas, notes, 1975.

Fig. 1 View of the Gearhouse. Photograph by Kevin Harrington and Wendy Nicholas,  
1975.

